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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 VILNIUS 000729

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [ETRD](#) [ETTC](#) [KPAL](#) [LH](#) [RS](#) [IR](#)  
SUBJECT: LITHUANIA ON THE OCTOBER 15-16 FOREIGN MINISTERS  
MEETING (GAERC)

REF: A. STATE 141316

[B](#). STATE 143223

Classified By: DCM Damian Leader for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#). (C) Begin Summary. Lithuania's priority at the October 15-16 GAERC will be to express concerns about Russia prior to the EU-Russia summit in Portugal later this month. The FM also may intervene to discuss concerns about the EU's new treaty reform, to express support for strong pressure on Burma, to support banning President Mugabe from coming to Europe for the EU-Africa summit in November, and to express support for the UK's suggestion to increase EU coordination of member state efforts in Iraq. The GOL agrees with the USG position on many issues that will arise at the GAERC, including strong sanctions on Iran through the UNSC or the EU, strong sanctions on Burma, and a resolution of the status of Kosovo's independence. End Summary.

Iran  
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[2](#). (C) We delivered ref A points on October 11 to the Head of the MFA's Common Foreign and Security Policy Division, Egidijus Navikas, who prepares the Minister's briefing book for the GAERC. Navikas told us that the GOL "fully supports that we have to be as tough as needed" on Iran and hopes that EU-U.S. cooperation continues. He added that the GOL supports sanctions on Iran by the EU "if there are no additional and stricter UNSC" sanctions. The Ambassador will meet with the Foreign Minister on October 13 and will underscore the USG's firm support for EU sanctions on Iran.

Russia  
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[3](#). (C) Navikas said the FM will intervene to express concerns on three topics regarding Russia prior to the EU-Russia summit: the business climate in Kaliningrad, energy, and the status of Kosovo. Navikas noted that within the last few months one Lithuanian businessman was killed and one went missing in Kaliningrad. He added that the GOL has done little or nothing in response and will continue to do nothing unless directed from the very top. Navikas cited a similar case of a Dutch businessman who went missing three years ago in Kaliningrad. Only after pressure at the highest level, the businessman was located in a prison and subsequently released.

[4](#). (C) Navikas also said the FM will express concern about Gazprom's non-market practices. He noted there are rumors of a "Christmas present" from Gazprom of a price hike beyond market levels for natural gas delivered to the Baltics. The FM will also mention that EU leadership should note to Russian leadership that if or when Kosovo makes a unilateral declaration of independence and the USG and EU member states recognize that independence, Russia should behave

responsibly. The GOL thinks the EU should make clear to Russia that provocations in Georgia, retaliatory recognition of Abkazia, or other tit-for-tat games are unacceptable.

Kosovo

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¶15. (C) Navikas added that the GOL, though not a strategic player on Kosovo, believes the "end result" of an independent Kosovo is clear. The "question is how to get there without bloodshed or major problems." He said the GOL would like a united EU to support this, but there are five or six countries that are not on board.

Iraq

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¶16. (C) Navikas said that the UK has circulated a non-paper about the consolidation of EU efforts in Iraq for better coordination and more effectiveness. He said the GOL "fully supports that."

Zimbabwe

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¶17. (C) Navikas indicated that the FM may intervene to state that the EU should enforce its visa ban on Zimbabwe's President Mugabe and not allow him to attend the EU-Africa summit in November. If some other African leaders boycott the summit in support of Mugabe, that would be unfortunate, but it would reflect an error on their part.

Lebanon and Chad

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VILNIUS 00000729 002 OF 002

¶18. (C) The GOL supports the EU- and French-led efforts in Lebanon and Chad. Navikas added, however, that it is troubling that these initiatives will move quickly with extensive financial support while other, much less costly efforts closer to the EU border, such as in Moldova, often get bogged down and effectively blocked.

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